

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

Extra Copies of This Issue

Extra copies of this number of the paper can be had at three cents each, five for ten cents, fifteen for twenty-five cents. Stamps will be accepted. Samples intended to be used in securing subscribers sent free on application. Brethren, distribute the paper among your friends, it will do good. Read this paper thro and then ask yourself, "Can I afford to be without the EVANGELIST?" Your answer will be, No.

The Emotional in Religion

Emotionalism in religion is like riding in a ballon; superterrestrial, very thrilling, uncertain in direction, and liable to bump hard down on the cold, matter of fact ground. Yet there is a difference which was aptly illustrated by an old colored man. A circus was in town, and a ballon ascension had just been successfully performed by a daring aeronaut. "Well boss, what did you think of dat?" said the venerable darkey, bowing to a citizen with great courtesy and deference. "I had rather hear your opinion of it, Uncle Preston." Well, sah," replied the latter, lifting himself up and gazing toward the point in the sky from which the ballon had just descended, "When a man raise hisself up dah, 'taint much; but when de Lord raise him up dah, dat counts, it sholy do."

The One Thing Needful

"Neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature in Christ Jesus." Here is the soul of true religion. It is not merely the main thing, it is everything. And yet how strangely inverted is our sense of proportion between this "one thing needful," and the "many things" which constitute our religious formula. The latter we magnify. We are perfectly clear, perfectly certain about them, while in regard to the weightiest matter, the one vital, solemn, eternal question of the new, Christ life in us, we are uncertain, dim, perplexed, like one wandering about in a fog. "Do you believe in this, that and the other doctrine?" "Why, yes, certainly; nothing could be plainer." What certitude, what sublime confidence in this reply. "Are you a Christian?" To this a faltering, hesitating, poor, weak, dejected, uncertain, unhappy, "I hope so."

The spirit of simple obedience is a powerful solvent of the sanctification problem. To be willing to do makes it possible to be.

Our Sunday-school Literature

Already we have received orders for samples of our literature from schools which have never before used it. Of the Quarterlies for the first quarter 1898, there are none left, but those for the second quarter will be out in good time, and we prefer to send these as samples, as there will be some improvements in our already favorably received helps. We ask our patrons to join us in making the coming quarter the best we have ever had. If there are Brethren or Union schools in your neighborhood, we shall be glad to furnish them samples of our literature, if you will kindly give us the name of superintendent or other officer of the school. *Our Little Folks* will be illustrated each week, and *Cheering Words* occasionally. Samples of these papers will be sent to any address for the asking. Circulars giving full description of all our literature will be mailed in a few days.

The One Great Issue

On page 16 of this paper will be found a call for a general awakening of the Brethren churches on the subject of temperance. Politically and morally we regard the temperance question the greatest now before the American or any other people. It overshadows all others; in point of immensity all others sink into insignificance. While political parties are quarrelling over the money and tariff questions, the liquor traffic is gobbling up the gold, the silver, the greenbacks and the revenue from the tariff. Let us awake from our long sleep and no longer look quietly on while this monster demon is destroying our homes, our sons, our daughters, and all that the church holds dear and sacred. Will we permit it? How long? The church of Jesus Christ can "pulverize the rum traffic" in one year's time. Will we do it, or rather will the Brethren church do her part of the work? I hear a universal, Amen. The cut at the head of the article on page 16, has an instructive lesson for those who will learn.

Long and Short Articles

The merit of an article is not to be judged by its length. Christ refers to a class of people who think they are heard for their much speaking. There are those who think they are read for their "much writing." This is a mistake. Neither indeed is the merit of an article to be judged by its brevity, tho brevity is at least one thing in its favor. Of two articles of equal merit, the short one is always read first. This is not

intended to reflect on those who write long articles, we are not complaining, we are simply stating facts, and we are not alone in our opinion. This is the experience of others, and hence the demand for short articles. It is because the people, the readers and patrons of the paper, prefer such articles that we call for them. The *Reformed Church Messenger* says: "Short articles are read first. Shorter articles would make room for more articles. The editor, the printer and the reader would all be benefitted if our correspondents would bear this in mind. We are much in need of space; and besides, we wish to make our paper interesting to our patrons. Long articles unless of exceptional interest, are not read."

Premium Announcement

Our premium announcement appears on page 15 this week. Please read it carefully, and then go to work and earn one of these valuable books. It is a rare opportunity, and we invite you to take advantage of it. Send in renewals at once. Read what Brother Cassel says in his communication, and act at once. If your subscription expired January 1, and you wish the paper discontinued, please enclose twenty-five cents. But you certainly do not want to discontinue, you cannot afford to be without the paper, and the Board and the whole church need your support.

If we Know as God Knows

We suffer great perplexity concerning the fate of our prayers, concerning God's providential dealing with us, and we grope in mental confusion and darkness, vainly seeking the key to this ever recurring mystery. Perhaps it is not far to seek, after all, and perhaps the principles which guide the divine policy are removed more or less from our understanding because they are more rational, more wise, more fit than the conceptions to which habit and the limitations of our nature, have made us familiar. A suggestion may make this a little clear. We have constant dealings with each other, and it would perhaps be very interesting and enlightening to inquire how far and how much our line of action toward our fellows would be modified, and how much it would appear a mystery to others, were we able as God is, to read the innermost heart of all men, and see what thoughts, what purposes, what weaknesses, and perhaps what evils lurk there. Besides this, let us take into consideration God's peculiar relation to his respon-